



§ 18.123 When is this rule effective?

Regulations in this subpart are effective March 30, 2000 and remain effective through March 31, 2003, for year-round oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities.

§ 18.124 How do you obtain a Letter of Authorization?

(a) You must be a U.S. citizen as defined in § 18.27(c) of this part.

(b) If you are conducting an oil and gas exploration, development, or production activity in the specified geographic region described in § 18.122 that may take a polar bear or Pacific walrus in execution of those activities and desire incidental take authorization under this rule, you must apply for a Letter of Authorization for each exploration activity or a Letter of Authorization for each development and production area. You must submit the application for authorization to our Alaska Regional Director (See 50 CFR 2.2

for address) at last 90 days prior to the start of the proposed activity.

(c) Your application for a Letter of Authorization must include the following information:

(1) A description of the activity, the dates and duration of the activity, the specific location, and the estimated area affected by that activity.

(2) A site-specific plan to monitor the effects of the activity on the behavior of polar bear and Pacific walrus that may be present during the ongoing activities. Your monitoring program must document the effects to these marine mammals and estimate the actual level and type of take. The monitoring requirements will vary depending on the activity, the location, and the time of year.

(3) A polar bear awareness and interaction plan. For the protection of human life and welfare, each employee on site must complete a basic polar bear encounter training course.